



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

LYLE W. ASELL, INTERIM DIRECTOR

February 28, 2001

Ms. Lidia A. Pilecky
CH2M Hill
8501 W. Higgins Road, Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60631-2801

RE: Improvement to I-74 in Bettendorf, Iowa; Scott County

Dear Ms. Pilecky:

Thank you for inviting our comments on the impact of the above referenced project on protected species and rare natural communities.

We have searched our records of the project area and found no records of rare species or significant natural communities. While our data are not the result of thorough field surveys, based on the information provided, we do not think the project will affect protected species or rare natural communities. Thus, we do not recommend further field surveys of the site. However, if listed species or rare communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.

This letter is a record of review for protected species and rare natural communities in the project area. It does not constitute a permit and before proceeding with the project, you may need to obtain permits from the DNR or other state and federal agencies.

If you have any questions about this letter or if you require further information, please contact Keith Dohrmann at (515) 281-8967.

Sincerely,

STEVE PENNINGTON
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SP:kd

01-109L.doc

June 4, 2001



Tammy Nicholson
Corridor Development
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Ms. Nicholson:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Iowa and Illinois Departments of Transportation, has initiated studies for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Interstate-74 in Moline, Illinois (Rock Island County) and Bettendorf, Iowa (Scott County). The notice of intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on January 24, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 16). The first Cooperating Agency and environmental scoping meeting for the project will be held on June 20, 2001, at Black Hawk Community College in Moline, Illinois (building 2, room 115). For location information, refer to <http://www.bhc.edu>, click on *view our new map/directions page*, then click on *Map to QC Campus* or *Quad-Cities Campus Map*.

This project will follow Iowa's merged NEPA/404 process. The first meeting with agencies will cover:

- Coordination and merger agreement issues,
- Remaining scope issues after the early coordination letter process,
- Purpose and need, and
- An informational session on the conceptual alternatives.

As the project will involve resources under the jurisdiction of your agency, we are requesting your agency to be a cooperating agency.

The I-74 corridor study extends for a distance of approximately six miles including three interchanges in Illinois and five interchanges in Iowa. A significant feature in the corridor is the existing crossing of the Mississippi River between the two states. Within the corridor, capacity and operational improvements will be considered in order to improve safety, accommodate future traffic demand, and support core-area redevelopment efforts in Moline and Bettendorf. Conceptual alternatives under consideration include:

- Taking no action,
- Employing low-cost measures (such as traffic management, incident management, additional transit service, and van and carpool efforts), and
- Realigning and widening I-74 across the Mississippi River, including the provision of auxiliary lanes between interchanges, or an additional through lane in each direction, and reconfiguring existing service interchanges.

Changes in grade, alignment, river crossing location, and ramp terminal locations will be evaluated for the build alternatives.

We will be engaging in a proactive community participation process and expect to evaluate a complete range of social, economic, and environmental project-effects. In addition, a steering

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Iowa Department
of Transportation



Illinois Department
of Transportation

Tammy Nicholson
June 4, 2001
Page 2

committee composed of local officials and community leaders has been established to advise the project team of local concerns.

Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its jurisdiction, and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for the preparation of the document. To maximize agency cooperation, we will do the following:

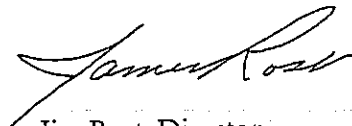
- Invite you to coordination meetings,
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required,
- Organize joint field reviews with you,
- Provide you with project information and study results,
- Encourage your agency to use the aforementioned documents to express your views on subjects within your jurisdiction or expertise, and
- Include information in the project environmental documents that cooperating agencies may need to discharge National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) responsibilities and any other requirements discharging jurisdictional approvals, permits, licenses, or clearances.

You have the right to expect that the EIS will enable you to discharge your jurisdictional responsibilities. Likewise, you have the obligation to tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met and to actively participate in the process. We expect that at the end of the process, the EIS will satisfy NEPA requirements including those related to purpose and need, project alternatives, environmental consequences, and mitigation. Further, we intend to utilize the EIS and our subsequent decision statement as our decision-making documents and as the basis for permit applications.

We look forward to your response to this request and your involvement as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please direct your questions to the following:

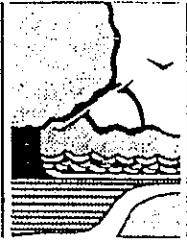
- Jim Rost, 515-239-1798, concerning environmental studies and documents,
- Tammy Nicholson, 515-239-1797, concerning engineering and public involvement.

Sincerely,



Jim Rost, Director
Office of Environmental Services
Iowa Dept. of Transportation

Copy: Kathy Ames, IDOT Bureau of Design and Environment
Kevin Marchek, IDOT District 2
Peter Hartman, FHWA Illinois Division
Manu Chacko, FHWA Iowa Division
Andy Wilson



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

<http://dnr.state.il.us>

524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1787

George H. Ryan, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

June 5, 2001

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JUN 13 2001
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Mr. Jim Rost, Director
Office of Environmental Services
Iowa Dept. of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010-6993

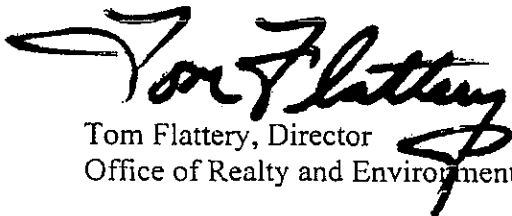
RE: Interstate 74 Corridor
Illinois and Iowa
NEPA/404 Process

Dear Mr. Rost:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate as a cooperating agency in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement for the above referenced project. It is important that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources be involved in the review process to assure resource protection and compliance with the state Endangered Species Protection Act and the Interagency Wetlands Policy Act of 1989.

Please address all correspondence and meeting agendas to Mr. Steve Hamer of the Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, Division of Resource Review and Coordination at 524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Steve is the Transportation Review Program Administrator for resource reviews on transportation issues.

Sincerely,


Tom Flattery, Director
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning

TF:sh

cc: Director Brent Manning

(217)



ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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JUN 19 2001

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION PROGRAM
AGENCY ACTION REPORT

Date Submitted: June 19, 2001
Is this a Resubmittal? [Yes / No] Please circle one
If 'Yes', enter PROJCODE: _____

PROJCODE 0104209

Date Due: 8-3-01

For Office Use Only

Agency Name: Illinois Department of Transportation
Contact Person: George Rose
Agency Address: Bureau of Design and Environment, Room 330 Phone: (217)785-2830
2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62764 E-mail: _____

DESCRIBE PRECISE LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Project Name: I-74 Mississippi River Bridges BDE Seq. No. 9724
County(ies): Rock Island Co., Illinois & Scott Co., Iowa
City/Town: Moline, IL, Bettendorf, IA & Davenport, IA
Township/Range/Section: T19N, R1W, S4, S49, T18N, R1W S32, 33 (Illinois portion only)
U.S.G.S. Quad Map Name(s): Milton, Coal Valley, and Davenport East
Brief Description of the Proposed Action: Replacement of the existing Mississippi River bridges on new alignment, interchange improvements/reconstruction, and realignment of the bridge approach roadway to match the new bridge location
Please enclose a map delineating the location of the proposed action, and return to Dr. Deanna Glosser at the SPRINGFIELD address above.

FOR NATURAL RESOURCE REVIEW & COORDINATION USE ONLY

RL

QUADCODE(S): _____

Are there threatened/endangered species or natural areas located within the vicinity of the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is the proposed project likely to adversely affect the threatened/endangered species or INAI sites? ☒ Yes ☐ No

The consultation process is terminated? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If 'No', complete the enclosed Detailed Agency Action Report to continue the consultation process.

Comments: Several mussel species occur near the project site. Surveys needed. Also a Bald Eagle record is near the project.

Evaluation Approved by: See attached maps.

Steve Hamer

Deanna Glosser, Ph.D.

Chief, Div. of Natural Resource Review & Coordination

6-19-01
Date

Effective July 1, 1995, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources was created through the consolidation of the Illinois Department of Conservation, Department of Mines and Minerals, Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Council, the Department of Transportation's Division of Water Resources, and the Illinois State Museum and Scientific Surveys from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources.